

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

for

MARTHA JANETTE BUSBY RENFROE

November 24, 1998

New Hope Presbyterian Church

Dr. Eldridge E. Fleming, Minister, Officiating

Prelude

Processional

Duet "Whispering Hope" Donna Taylor, Piano, and Emily Nichols, Organ

Opening Remarks:

We come today to celebrate the passing of Martha Janette Busby Renfroe from this phase of life to the next. Janette had struggled with disease of the body over several years and as is the case of us all eventually left us to be at home with God. She is survived by her daughter, Ardena Leight Busby, her husband, Claude Powell Renfroe, Jr, her mother, Martha Honnell Busby, and her brother, Wilson Busby and his wife, Arlie. To these we come today to offer our comfort and support.

Let us now call of God in **Prayer** for help in these moments:

God of all creation, *Father of all things, Giver and sustainer of life*, we come to you today to thank you for Janette and her many good things on earth. How we praise your name for the memories that we renew today. O Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth: You formed us from the dust of the earth, and by your breath you gave us life. We glorify you. O Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life: You tasted death for all humanity, and by rising from the grave you opened the way to eternal life. We praise you. O Holy Spirit, author and giver of life: You are the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope. We worship you. To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

Musical Solo: "How Great Thou Art" David Honnell

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

1 Ps. 124:8

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Ps. 124:8

2 Romans 6:3-5

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

3 John 11:25-26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

4 Rev. 21:6; 22:13; 1:17-18;

I am the Alpha and the Omega, be beginning and the end, he first and the last. I was dead and behold I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Because I live, you also will live.

5 Matt 11:28

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

6 I Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose great mercy gave us new birth into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! The inheritance to which we are born is one that nothing can destroy or spoil or wither.

7 Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.

8 John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

9 Ps. 103:13; Isa. 66:13

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear God. As a mother comforts her child, So I will comfort you, says the Lord.

10 Deut. 33:27

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

11 Rom 8:38-39

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Isa. 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

13 Matt. 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

14 2 Cor. 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all

comfort, who comforts us in all our sorrows, so that we can comfort others in their sorrow,
with the consolation we have received from God.

15 I Thess. 4:14, 17-18

We believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so it will be for those who have died in Christ.
God will raise them to be with the Lord for ever. Comfort one another with these words.

16 Rom. 14:8

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or
whether we die, we are the Lord's.

17 Rev. 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They will rest from their labors, and
their deeds follow them.

18 *John 10:14; Isa. 40:11*

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. He will feed his flock
like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom.

Musical Solo: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" David Honnell

MEDITATION John 14:1-7

Life is short - like a twinkling of an eye.

Life has purpose - we must find it.

Life ends with God who gave it - Know the Lord.

Let's be ready for his coming!

PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our
needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Show us now your grace, that as we face the
mystery of death we may see the light of eternity.

Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are
prepared to die. And when our days here are ended, enable us to die as those who go forth to live,
so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Eternal God, we bless you for the great company of all those who have kept the faith, finished
their race, and who now rest from their labor. We praise you for those dear to us whom we name

in our hearts before you.... Especially we thank you for Janette, whom you have now received into your presence.

Help us to believe where we have not seen, trusting you to lead us through our years. Bring us at last with all your saints into the joy of your home, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Let us now ask God to cleanse our hearts, to redeem our memories, and to renew our confidence in the goodness of God.

Holy God, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not always sought or done your will.

We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever.

Let us silent pray seeking God's forgiveness.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Committal

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

Luke 2:29-32

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all. We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. This you ordained when you created us, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with all your saints, where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant N. Acknowledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *Janette* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

BLESSING

Heb. 13:20.

The God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.